

Judith A. Burnaman
10720 Hale Place
Cupertino, CA 95014

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Food & Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
Department of Health & Human Services
12420 Parklawn Drive Room 1-23
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear FDA:

Forced molting of hens used in egg production is cruel to the birds and increases the spread of Salmonella enteritidis infection. Please grant the petition, filed under docket #98P-0203/CP, that would eliminate this practice.

Greed is the only justification for this abominable practice. Not only is this practice inhumane, it is a serious health hazard for the public and yet the FDA stands by and does nothing. Instead it is the consumer that is blamed! We do not properly cook the eggs. Eggs must be well done! Well, for years and years people could eat eggs cooked "over easy" or raw for that matter! Do you remember those days? I certainly do. Factory farming has replaced "Old MacDonald's farm" and it is not a pretty picture. Pigs, cows, chickens and all food animals are bred and raised under the most horrible, filthy conditions. I, for one, refuse to eat meat that comes from these unfortunate animals. I am **not** a vegetarian but have often considered being one in today's world. I will pay **top dollar** for meat that comes from animals that are raised and cared for in a humane, natural way. This includes slaughter practices.

The FDA must NOT continue to keep its head in the sand and must **finally** make a stand in support of the consumer that this agency is supposed to represent.

Sincerely,

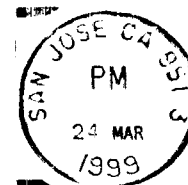


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Ms. Judy Burnaman
10720 Hale Pl. Ace
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